Mountain Weather Forecast

Northwest Highlands

Including Sutherland, Ben Wyvis, Wester Ross, The Cuillin, Glen Affric, Glen Shiel and Knoydart
Forecast valid from 00:00 on Saturday 23 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Sunday 24 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Friday 22 Dec 2023 at 14:45 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for changeable weather on lead up to Christmas. Lower confidence for a window of drier, brighter, less windy weather on Boxing Day.

Headline for Saturday 23 Dec 2023: Cloudy. Sleet and snow, turning increasingly to rain. Windy and feeling bitterly cold.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 23 Dec 2023

Blizzards Low Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** Medium Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales Medium Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** High Likelihood	**Poor visibility** High Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** Medium Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m

Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Sleet	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Light rain	Light rain
Precipitation probability							
60%	60%	50%	60%	60%	60%	70%	40%

Forecast for Saturday 23 Dec 2023

Weather: Cloudy overnight with heavy sleet and snow, falling as rain below 400m, possibly snow lower down at end of the night. The snow level will rise during Saturday morning but still heavy snow on higher slopes of north Highlands at first with possible blizzard conditions as winds strengthen. Gradually the snow in north of area will turn to rain at all levels as milder air extends northwards across Scotland.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Little chance.

Low cloud and visibility: Generally misty conditions with poor visibility in rain and cloud and virtually zero visibility in heavier snow leading to navigational difficulties. Also extensive clouds well down the hills.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
© Crown Copyright 2023. All Rights Reserved.

Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Saturday 23 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	13/17 S	23/28 SW	33/41 W	37/46 W	42/52 W	42/55 W	37/49 SW	35/46 SW	35/48 SW
900	11/14 S	19/24 SW	30/38 W	34/43 W	38/49 W	39/52 W	35/46 SW	32/43 SW	34/46 SW
600	9/12 S	12/16 SW	19/26 SW	23/31 W	27/38 W	27/40 W	24/35 SW	22/33 SW	24/36 SW
300	1/7 S	1/13 NW	4/26 SW	5/32 W	7/37 W	9/39 W	8/34 SW	8/31 SW	10/34 SW
Glen	2/5 E	2/7 NE	8/21 SW	13/30 W	18/37 W	16/35 W	14/31 SW	13/28 SW	14/28 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	-2/-8	-0/-6	2/-4	3/-3	4/-3	5/-2	5/-2	5/-1	5/-1
900	-1/-6	0/-5	3/-3	4/-2	5/-2	5/-1	5/-1	6/0	6/0
600	0/-4	2/-2	4/-0	6/1	7/2	7/2	7/2	8/3	8/3
300	1/-1	2/0	5/3	7/5	8/6	9/7	9/7	9/7	9/6
Glen	4/3	6/4	8/6	9/7	10/7	11/8	11/8	11/8	11/8
Freezing Level*	600m	1300m	1700m	1800m	2000m	1900m	2100m	2400m	1900m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View

Feeling bitterly cold, even when less cold air moves in. It will still be wet with strong winds. Also difficult underfoot conditions.

Forecast for Sunday 24 Dec 2023

Weather: A drier and brighter day with scattered rain showers. The showers will turn wintry above 700m late in the day as colder air returns. It will become very windy with difficult walking conditions once again.

Maximum wind: Westerly gales with severe gales on the tops, possibly storm force later, average speeds 40 to 50 with gusts 70 to 80mph, possibly 90mph by evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 40%, best in east of area.

Low cloud and visibility: Good visibility between showers with occasional cloud cover 700 to 900m. Brief reductions to poor visibility as showers pass by, especially over hills towards West Coast, clouds more extensive down to 600m.

Temperature: **Glens:** Plus 7 Celsius.
At 800m: Plus 7 Celsius falling to plus 1 Celsius by evening.
Freezing level: Above tops for much of the day, lowering to 900m after dark,

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
© Crown Copyright 2023. All Rights Reserved.